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Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

W. HUMPHREY WILLIAMS

B.A., M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P.

For the Year 1937.

Printed by by J. Powell, Monmouth.

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BOROUGH OF MONMOUTH.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF MONMOUTH.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

This report is not a survey report and is compiled upon the lines laid down in Circular 1650 (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres) is	7,101
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, mid-1937	4,927
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	1,475
Rateable Value	£24,662
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ..	£93 13s. 2·4d.

The Social Conditions generally are unaltered

The amount of unemployment is decreasing.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	Legitimate	66	38	25
	Illegitimate	5	5	0

	1937	1936
Birth-rate per 1000 population	14·7	14·4
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	14·9	14·8
" " " Monmouth County	15·5	15·9

		Total	Male	Female
STILL BIRTHS	Legitimate ..	2	2	0
	Illegitimate ..	0	0	0

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still Births) ..	27·
Rate per 1,000 population	·41
Corresponding rate for England and Wales ..	·6
,, ,, ,, Monmouth County ..	·9
,, ,, ,, this District in 1936 ..	·4

	Total	Male	Female
DEATHS	60	34	26

	1937	1936
Death-rate per 1,000 population	12·4	16·4
Corresponding rate for England and Wales ..	12·4	12·1
,, ,, ,, Monmouth County ..	12 6	12·2

Deaths from Puerperal causes: –

Puerperal Sepis—Nil

OtherP uerperal Causes Nil

		Total	Male	Female
Death of Infants under One Year	Legitimate	1	1	0
	Illegitimate	1	0	1

	1937	1936
Death Rate—All Infants per 1000 live births ..	28·2	42·2
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	58·0	59 0
,, ,, ,, Monmouth County	63·0	61.7
Death Rate Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	17·8	42·2
Death Rate—Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Live Births	200	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	19	
,, Measles (all ages)	0	
,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	0	
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ..	0	

It is satisfactory to note that the Infantile Mortality rate for the year under review is again very low.

Among the causes of death are the following; —

Heart Diseases	12
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	5
Nephritis	7
Bronchitis	3
Appendicitis	1
Tuberculosis	2
Suicide	1
Other Violence	2

There were no deaths from Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Measles, nor from Influenza.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

There has been no change in the Public Health Officers of the Council during the past year.

The Medical Officer is a part time official, the Sanitary Inspector and the Staff of the Isolation Hospital are whole time officials.

In addition to these several other officials, under the County Council, have duties to perform in the district.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.—The Laboratory at the County Council Offices, Newport, is freely used by the Medical men in the district, and, of course, by the Medical Officer.

Road transport has developed to such an extent that specimens can be sent for examination without delay and the results of the examinations are sent out by telephone.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—The Motor Ambulance of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade is much used in the district. This Authority has provided a motor ambulance for the transpor tof infectious cases to and from the Isolation Hospital.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.—At present the arrangements are adequate. In addition to the District Nurse several private nurses practice in the area. No nurses are subsidized by this Authority.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—An addition of an Orthopœdic Clinic in the town has been made by the County Authorities. The Infant Welfare Clinic has been much used.

(e) HOSPITALS.—The General Hospital in the town has been improved by the building of two new accident wards.

The Isolation Hospital which belongs to the Local Authority receive cases from all parts of the County.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) WATER.—The Town supply has again been found to be below standard for a treated supply. During the year Eighteen samples were taken for analysis and Eight were unsatisfactory.

Further improvements at the gathering ground are being undertaken.

Samples were taken from other supplies in the area. Three were satisfactory and four were unsatisfactory. These later samples were all made satisfactory after necessary repairs.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Nineteen new connections with the Town Sewer were made during the year.

(3) RIVERS AND STREAMS.—Pollution is slight.

(4) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Nineteen new closets were erected during the year, bringing the total to 1,116.

(5) PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Improvements in this service can be recorded. The area of collection has been extended and the number of collections has been increased.

(6) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:—

	No. of Inspections	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices	Notices complied with
Housing	114	2	19	10
Workshops	15	0	0	0
Dairies and Cowsheds ..	67	3	0	3
Bake-houses	35	4	0	4
Slaughter-houses ..	Daily	0	0	0
Infectious Diseases ..	14	0	0	0
Nuisances .. .	93	12	1	13
Disinfection	26	0	0	0

(7) SHOPS.—No action has been necessary.

(8) SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No action has been necessary.

(9) SWIMMING POOLS.—There are no pools open to the public.

(10) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS:—

(a) Number of Council houses infested—1.

" " Other " " 6.

(b) Infested houses have been sealed and fumigated.

(c) The belongings of tenants moving into Council houses are fumigated in a central fumigation station.

(d) Fumigation is carried out by the Local Authority.

(11) SCHOOLS.—Routine Inspections have been carried out. All the Schools are on the Town water supply and the now sewer.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

22 houses were erected during the year by private enterprise.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	114
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	136
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which was inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925...	14
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	28
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	60
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	23

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 2

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

A—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 25

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners 13

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owner ... 0

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners 1

(b) By Local Authority in default of owner ... 0

C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which a Demolition order was made 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 2

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

A. (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of Year ... 15

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 15

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein (per table of Housing Act, 1936) 89

B. Number of New cases reported during the year ... 0

C. (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 22

(2) Number of persons concerned in such case 83

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—The dairies and cowsheds have been regulary inspected. Forty samples were sent for bacteriological examination and some were unsatisfactory. The matter was at once taken up with the producers

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—During the year 40 lbs. of Meat were condemned and three heads of poultry. 1,502 carcases were inspected.

(c) The Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of food is carried out at the County Council Laboratories.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	27	81	637	522
All Diseases—Except Tuberculosis; Whole carcases condemned ...	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis Only: Whole carcases condemned ...	0	0	0	0
Carcaess of which some part or Organ was condemned ...	1	0	0	1

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Mild cases of scarlet fever occurred in the district from time to time. In its mildness the difficulty of checking the spread of infection arises.

It is not uncommon to find a child peeling whose mother states that the child had only been poorly for a few hours some time previously.

Fourteen cases occurred where the streptococcus hænolyticus was found in the throat.

There were no cases of diphtheria and immunisation against this disease was carried out in a very few instances These were done by the Medical practitioners and not by your Medical Officer.

The incidence of other infectious diseases was also low. There was little influenza during the year.

	Cases Notified	Sent to Hospttal	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	14	14	0
Diphtheria ..	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever ..	0	0	0
Enteric Fever .	0	0	0

The ages of the Scarlet Fever cases were:—

5—10	..	2
10—15	..	8
15—20	..	3
40—50	..	1

(a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS.—No action has been found necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Medical men in the district make full use of the facilities provided by the National Memorial Association.

Tuberculosis is generally promptly notified.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 - 5								1
15 - 25			1			1		
25—35	1							
	1		1			I		1

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. HUMPHREY WILLIAMS.